R E P O R T  R E S U M E S

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GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN. A SUPPLEMENT TO THE STATE PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION.

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY, AUSTIN

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IN 1965-66, 14 SCHOOL DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED 20 CLASSES IN SCHOOLS, MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS, AND HOSPITALS FOR EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN (AGES 6 THROUGH 17). OUTLINED WERE DEFINITIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN, PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM, MINIMUM PLANT FACILITIES, RELATED PERSONNEL, ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, CLASS SIZE AND AGE GROUPINGS, TEACHER CERTIFICATION, AND FINANCE. (HK)

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DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
Texas Education Agency
Austin, Texas
1965

# GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED CHILDREN

(A Supplement to the State Plan for Special Education)

## DEFINITION

The definitions of emotionally disturbed children which shall furnish the basis for the Pilot Program are as follows:

A. Legal Definition: "...the words 'emotionally disturbed children', whenever used, will be construed to include any child whose emotional condition is medically determined and psychologically determined to be such that he cannot be adequately educated in the regular classes of the public schools, without the provision of special services."[1]

B. Functional Definition: Emotionally disturbed children are those seventeen years of age, or under, who evidence inability to relate realistically with the program of a public school and who are unable to function near capacity mentally, socially and emotionally. The determination shall be made both psychologically and medically upon referral by school personnel.

## CHARACTERISTICS

Although there are varying degrees of the following behavioral deviations in emotionally disturbed children, the key to the eventual diagnosis of this condition is the persistency of these symptoms. Some of the commonly observed characteristics are:

- inability to learn at a rate commensurate with his intellectual, sensory-motor and physical development,
- inability to establish and maintain adequate social relationships,
- inability to respond appropriately in day-to-day life situations,
- a variety of excessive behavior ranging from hyperactive, impulsive responses to depression and withdrawal.

[1]Authority created by Senate Bill 306, 59th Legislature, 1965

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of the program for emotionally disturbed is to provide an instructional program under the auspices of the public schools that will meet the needs of individual children who are emotionally disturbed by assisting them to function educationally and emotionally in such a way that they will be prepared to:

- remain in a regular program,
- return to a regular classroom,
- enter a regular classroom, or
- develop to the best of their capacity outside the regular classroom.

## FACILITIES

The following are the minimal facilities necessary for establishing and maintaining a program for the emotionally disturbed:

A. School facilities
   1. Classroom of standard size or larger
   2. Private conference room accessible to classroom

B. Community Facilities
   1. Community mental health center or
   2. Accessibility of adequate diagnostic facilities or personnel

## PERSONNEL

Additional personnel specifically related to the program for the emotionally disturbed are as follows:

A. Related School Personnel
   1. Social worker or visiting teacher
   2. Available resource person in time of crises (such as mental health consultant, counselor, principal)
   3. Liaison person to serve between child, special class, and regular class

B. Consultant Personnel
   1. Psychiatrist
   2. Psychologist
   3. Social Worker

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Placement Committee.

An ADMISSION, RETENTION, AND DISMISSAL COMMITTEE of not less than five members shall be established to determine the eligibility of exceptional children for original placement and continued enrollment in special classes. The membership may vary from time to time and consist of those persons who have had contact with the child and/or his family.

A. Possible membership

Superintendent
Principal
Coordinator of Special Education
Regular Homeroom Teacher
Special Education Teacher
Visiting Teacher
School Counselor
Psychiatrist
Psychologist
Physician
Social Worker
School Nurse
Rehabilitation Counselor

B. Responsibilities

- After thorough study of data on the child which have been collected from varied sources, the Committee shall make recommendations concerning each child's admission to or dismissal from special education classes.

- The Committee may request additional information to assist in educational planning and placement of any child if the need for it is indicated.

Local Plan.

A detailed Local Plan for each program shall be prepared by the local district and a copy submitted to the Division of Special Education on or before October 15. This plan shall be descriptive of the individual programs and will include the following points:

- local administrative provision for the unit

- instruments used in identifying and evaluating pupil progress

- consultant provisions for unit

- plan for orientation of building faculty, other staff members, and community

- other aspects as covered in these guidelines

General Standards for Admittance.

The following standards for admittance shall be met in the operation of a Pilot Program for Emotionally Disturbed Children:

A. Each child shall be six years of age on September 1 and under seventeen on that date.

B. Each child shall evidence potential to achieve in the regular education program of the public schools.

C. Any child having more than one handicap, one of which is mental retardation, shall be classified as MENTALLY RETARDED for educational purposes.

D. Each child must be admitted and maintained on a trial basis.

E. The parent(s) or guardian of each child shall sign a statement approving admission to the class for the emotionally disturbed.

F. Each child shall meet the Minimum Admission Requirements (listed below) for inclusion in the program.

Minimum Admission Requirements.

The following reports shall be available on each child admitted to the class for the emotionally disturbed to be used by the Placement Committee in determining placement in and dismissal from the class. These reports shall also be available for audit purposes.

A. Educational Appraisal. The educational appraisal of each child shall be supervised by educational personnel and include such items as school history, academic levels, remediation program necessary with a plan for operation, and other pertinent educational information.

B. Social Appraisal. The social appraisal shall be supervised by a social worker or visiting teacher and include the following:

. Problem as stated by the parent, teacher, or others; duration of symptoms including action towards correction and reason referral is being made at that particular time.

. Family situation and structure, social and economic status, and any special problem.

. Child's general health and medical history (reported by family).

. Statement or description of what the child is like, his behavior and attitudes, his achievements, and his personality (reported by family).

C. Medical Appraisal. The medical appraisal shall be supervised by a psychiatrist and include the following:

- Compilation of detailed facts about the child's medical background -- birth, development, illnesses, accidents, and emotional growth
- Physician's written report of medical evaluation
- Reports of clinical and laboratory examinations
- Psychiatric diagnosis

D. Psychological Appraisal. The psychological appraisal shall be supervised by a psychologist and include the following:

- Report of origin of disturbance and degree to which child recognizes his problem.
- Assessment of approximate level and quality of the child's mental capacity.
- Evaluation of the child's potential for growth and estimation of his ability to profit from therapy and education.
- Recommendation for educational planning.

## ADMINISTRATIVE FORMULAS

The following formulas shall provide the administrative basis for each class in the Pilot Program:

A. Primary Class

Location: Elementary school
Ages: 6-10
Membership: minimum 6; maximum 10

Unit allocation: 9 months (175 teaching days)

B. Upper elementary Class

Location: Elementary school
Ages: 9-13
Membership: minimum 6; maximum 10

Unit allocation: 9 months (175 teaching days)

C. Secondary Class

Location: Secondary school
Ages: 13-17
Membership: minimum 8; maximum 14

Unit allocation: 9 months (175 teaching days)

D. Mental Health Center Class

Location: in conjunction with a Mental Health Center or a Parent-Child Guidance Center.

This program is planned for children who are too disturbed to be in public school classes, but who receive treatment and therapy at center. The teacher assigned has responsibility for the child's educational program.

Ages: 6-17
Membership: minimum 8; maximum 14

Unit allocation: 9 or 10 months (175 or 195 teaching days)

E. Hospital Class

Location: in hospital where school age children are hospitalized for intensive treatment.

The teacher assigned has the responsibility for the child's educational program.

Ages: elementary 6-12; secondary 13-17
Membership: minimum 6; maximum 14

Unit allocation: 9 or 10 months (175 or 195 teaching days)

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING

The following minimum requirements for teachers in the Pilot Program for the Emotionally Disturbed shall be met:

A. Each teacher shall hold a valid Texas Teaching Certificate

B. Each teacher shall attend the Orientation Workshop the week of August 22-28 prior to the opening of school year 1965-66, and other workshops as may be scheduled.

C. Each teacher shall complete six semester hours of college work directly related to teaching emotionally disturbed children during the summer of 1966, unless such work has been completed previously.

## FINANCE

The following rules for financing these programs are applicable to the Pilot Program for the Emotionally Disturbed only:

A. Teacher salaries for authorized Pilot Program Units are paid by local districts under the usual procedures for Minimum Foundation Program Funds.

B. Local districts operating hospital units will be allocated $600 for each unit for maintenance and operation purposes from Minimum Foundation Funds.

C. School districts operating other than hospital-units will be allocated $200 per pupil for maintenance and operational purposes from Minimum Foundation Funds. Each school district shall submit to the Division of Special Education a list of eligible pupils admitted to the unit. The Division of Special Education will then certify the unit to the Division of Finance for operational funds for the school year.

. For school year 1965-66, the deadline for submitting a list of pupils is on or before February 1, 1966.

. For school year 1966-67, the deadline for submitting a list of eligible pupils is on or before November 1, 1966.

## OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

A. Instruments for educational evaluations will be specified by the Division of Special Education.

B. Copies of all information regarding children will be accessible to the special teacher and will be made available to the Research-Coordinator-Consultant (Division of Special Education) upon request.

C. If a school district is unable to activate its unit by October 15, such unit may be relinquished and reassigned to another school district.

D. Each school district must be willing to experiment with different educational procedures for the Pilot Program in consultation with the Research-Coordinator-Consultant.

E. Each school is encouraged to establish a "communications consultant team" whose purpose shall be to cooperate in the establishment of an educational program. The team would enhance the communication between the administration, faculty, and parents, for the betterment of the program.

DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED
LOCATION AND TYPE OF CLASS
1965-66

| School District | Primary | Upper Elementary | Secondary | Mental Health Center | Hospital |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alamo Heights | | | | 1 | |
| Amarillo | | | | 1 | |
| Austin | 1 | 1 | | | 1 |
| Dallas | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Fort Worth | 1 | | | | |
| Galena Park | 1 | | | | |
| Galveston | | | | | 2 |
| Henderson | 1 | | | | |
| Houston | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Irving | 1 | | | | |
| Pasadena | 1 | | | | |
| Plano | 1 | | | | |
| South Park | 1 | | | | |
| Waco | 1 | | 1 | | |